

African Violets

This easy to grow houseplant has been popular for years, and if you follow a few simple guidelines you can grow these blooming beauties in your windowsill just like the ones grandma had!

LIGHT: African violets do well in low light, an east or north facing window with morning sun or late afternoon sun is fine. They also do well under fluorescent grow lights. If you keep your house at 60°F or below in winter, move the plant back from the colder windowsill at night or into a warmer room, since they like warm, humid growing locations. The ideal growing range for violets is about 65°F to 75°F. If you have very dry air in your home, try placing the plant in the kitchen, bathroom, or other room with higher humidity, or use a pebble tray.

WATER: Keep the plant evenly moist but not soggy wet all the time. If you keep your plant too wet, it will rot! It's best to water with warm or tepid water. Sit the pot in a tray of water and let the water wick into the soil from the bottom of the pot. Empty any remaining water from the tray after an hour or so of soaking. If you choose to water from the top, try not to splash water on the leaves as it causes them to spot. There are specially made African violet pots designed for watering from the bottom.

FERTILIZER: Use any water soluble African violet fertilizer you prefer; there are many brands formulated specifically for the plant. Read the directions to see how often and how much fertilizer to use.

REPOTTING: African violets can get crowded in the pot, and also the soil can become depleted after awhile, so you can move them up one pot size. Any African Violet planting mix is fine. Remove any yellowing leaves from the bottom of the plant after you've removed it. If a bare "neck" has developed at the base of the plant as you've removed yellowing leaves, when you replant you should bury the neck in soil to just under the first set of leaves and it will root out.

BLOOMING: If your plant doesn't keep blooming, you may not be fertilizing enough, or it may not have enough light.

Additional reading:

<https://extension.umn.edu/houseplants/african-violets>

<https://gardens.si.edu/learn/educational-resources/plant-care-sheets/care-of-african-violets/>